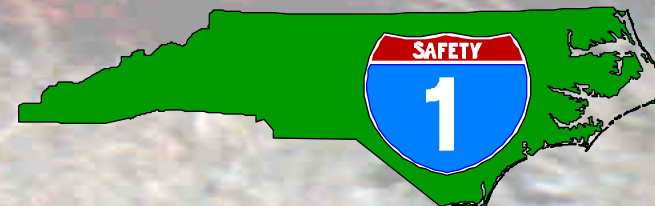


# ***North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety***

**Cliff Braam, P.E.**  
***NC Department of Transportation***

**Traffic Engineering Conference for Safety & Operations**  
**August 2006**



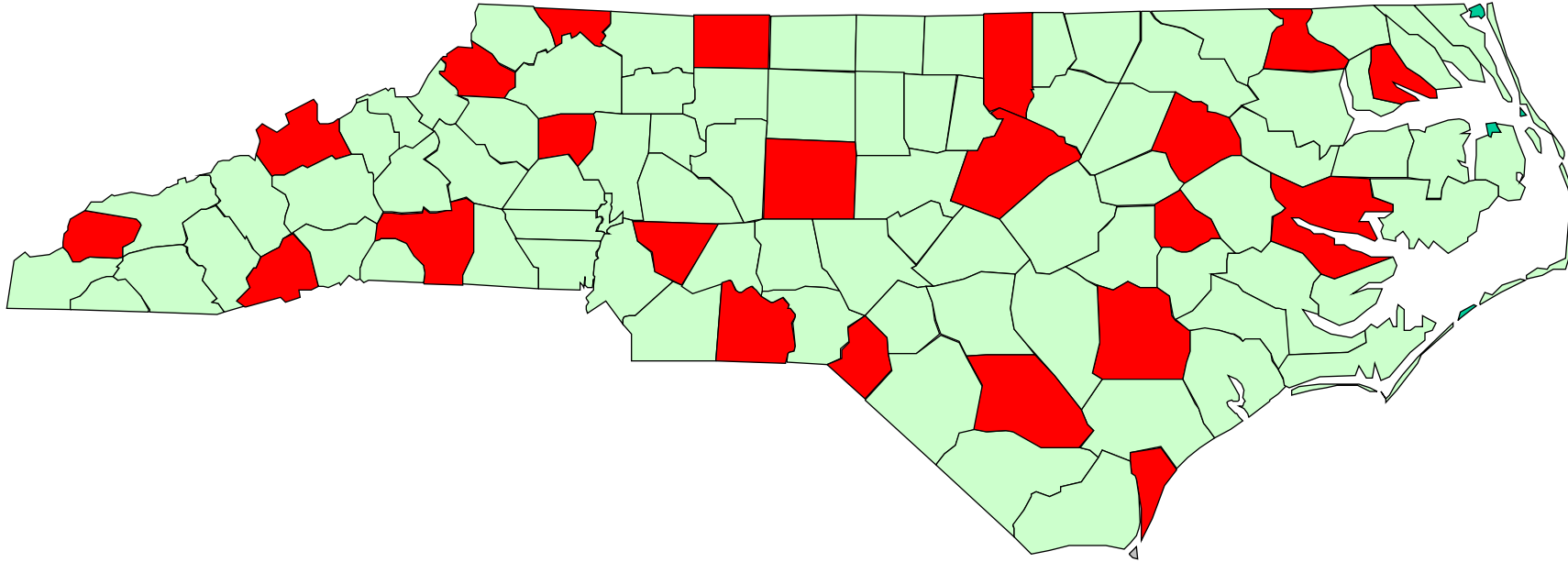
# North Carolina Crash Picture

**In 2005:**

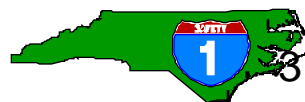
- **Over 234,000 reportable crashes**  
*Resulting in 1,546 fatalities and  
123,795 Injuries*



# N.C. Trend

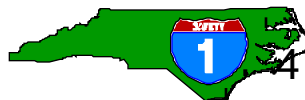


**If current trends continue over the next ten (10) years, the number of motorists on North Carolina Highways that will be killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash will be equivalent to every man, woman and child in the **22** counties indicated in red on the above map.**



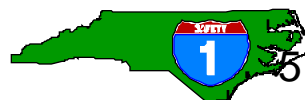
# N.C. Safety Initiatives

***Many of the North Carolina  
safety programs serve as  
models for the rest of the  
Nation***



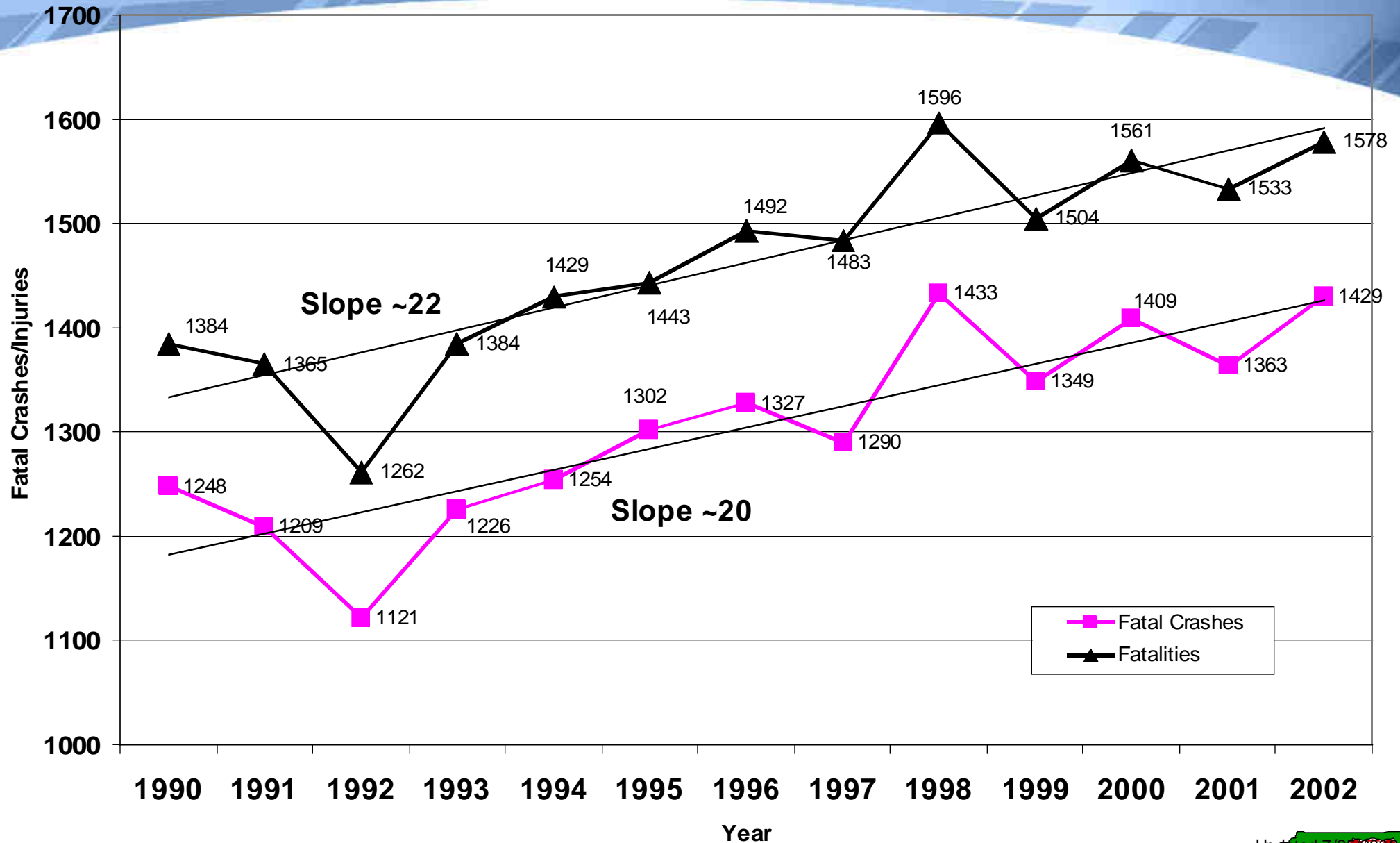
# N.C. Highway Safety Initiatives

## MEDIAN BARRIERS



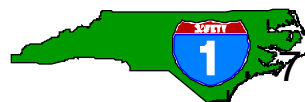


# Fatal Crashes and Fatal Injuries



# A Coordinated Safety Approach

- Time to adopt and enact a statewide, comprehensive highway safety effort that identifies current highway safety issues and facilitates appropriate strategies for alleviating the identified problems



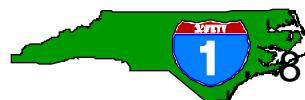
# Department Safety Partners

**Administration**  
**Construction**  
**Operations**  
**Preconstruction**  
**Safety & Loss Control**  
**State Highway Patrol**  
**Local Law Enforcement**  
**MPOs**  
**EMS**

**Insurance**  
**Governor's Office**  
**FHWA**  
**FMCSA**

**NHTSA**  
**DMV**

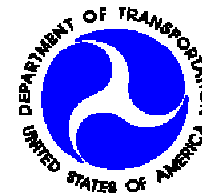
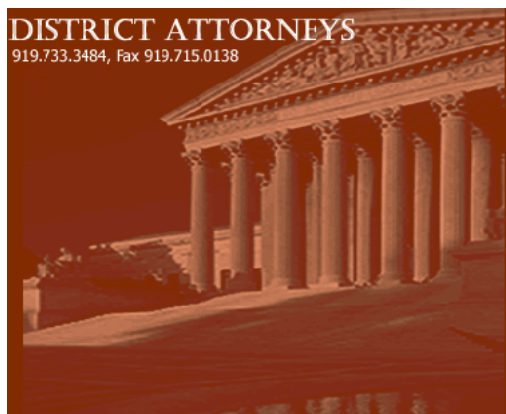
**Research**  
**District Attorneys**  
**Medical Profession**



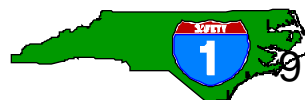
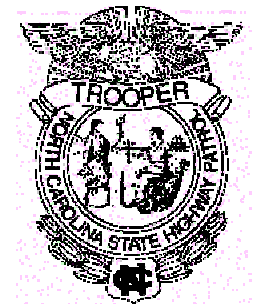


# The Executive Committee for Highway Safety

- In April 2003, the first meeting of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety was held
- Comprised of representatives from top management of selected disciplines involved in highway safety who control the current and potentially available resources for utilization in safety efforts



**Federal Highway  
Administration**



# ECHS Membership

**Susan Coward**

*NCDOT - Deputy Secretary*

**Debbie Barbour, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Director of Preconstruction*

**Colonel Fletcher Clay**

*NC State Highway Patrol*

**J. Douglas Galyon**

*NCDOT - Chairman, Board of Transportation*

**David Harkey**

*Director - UNC Highway Safety Research Center*

**Darrell Jernigan**

*NCDOT - Director Governor's Highway Safety Program*

**Calvin Leggett, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Manager Program Development Branch*

**Jim Long**

*Commissioner of Insurance*

**Len Sanderson, P.E.**

*NCDOT - State Highway Administrator*

**John Sullivan, III, P.E.**

*FHWA - Division Administrator*

**Steve Varnedoe, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Chief Engineer Operations*

**Mike Yaniero**

*Chief - Jacksonville Police Department*

**Bob Andrews**

*NCDOT - Director Safety & Loss Control*

**Roberto Canales, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Deputy Secretary*

**Peg Dorer**

*Director - NC Conference of District Attorneys*

**Herb Garrison III, MD**

*Director - Emergency Medicine, Injury Prevention*

**Terry Hopkins, P.E.**

*NCDOT - State Traffic Safety Engineer*

**Kevin Lacy, P.E., CPM**

*NCDOT - State Traffic Engineer*

**Axel Lluch**

*Director - Hispanic/Latino Affairs*

**Drexdal Pratt**

*Director - NC Emergency Medical Services*

**Ernie Seneca**

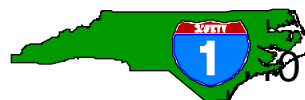
*NCDOT - Director Public Information Office*

**George Tatum**

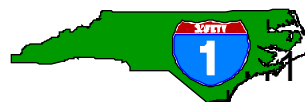
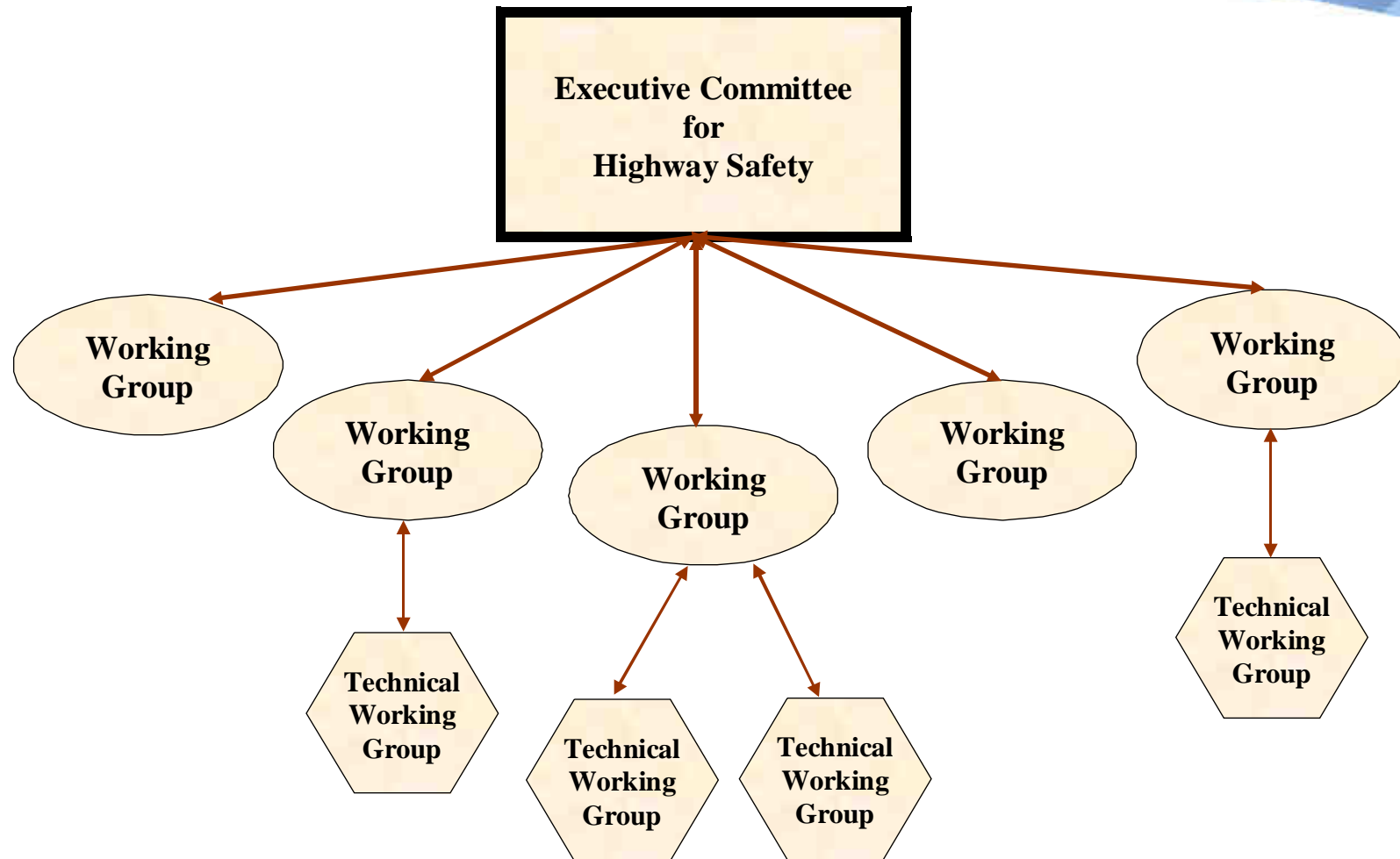
*NCDOT - Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner*

**Jim Westmoreland, P.E.**

*Director of Transportation - City of Greensboro*

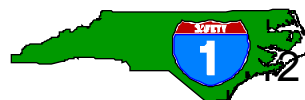


# ECHS Organizational Structure



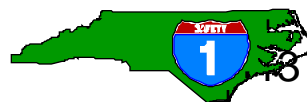
# ECHS Committee Duties

- Coordinate the state's many safety efforts with an emphasis on efficiency of resources and the prioritization of programs
- Establish statewide safety goals and objectives
- Review and approve all actions by the Working Groups
- ***TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!***



# Working Group Duties

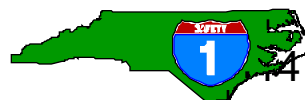
- Detailed analysis of the assigned issue
- Develop strategies for reducing and/or alleviating assigned issue
- Report out to the ECHS on a quarterly basis
- Support “Host” agency for implementation of approved strategies





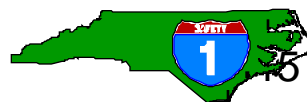
# ECHS Process Flow

- Identify Issue
- Create Appropriate Working Group
- Analyze Issue
- WG Develops Strategy
- ECHS Reviews Strategy
- Approved Strategy Assigned to Host Agency for implementation



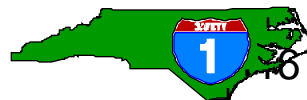
# 14 Working Groups

- Lane Departure
- Unlicensed Drivers
- Aggressive Driving
- Intersection Safety
- Motorcycle Safety
- Keeping Drivers Alert
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety
- Speed
- Older Drivers
- Public Information
- Drivers Education
- Increasing Safety Belt Usage
- Commercial Motor Vehicle
- Incident Management

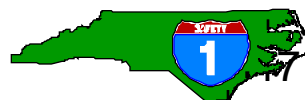


# ECHS Milestones

- Passed 3rd Anniversary in April 2006
- Adopted AASHTO Plan as ECHS Work Plan
- Decisions will be Data Driven
- Prioritization of Initial Emphasis Areas
- Adopted National Goal of 1.0 Fatalities/100 MVMT by 2008
  - Currently at 1.59/100 MVMT
- Implementation of Many WG Strategies

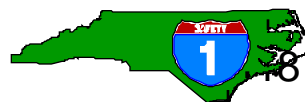


# NC's ECHS - A Different Approach



# Approved Strategies

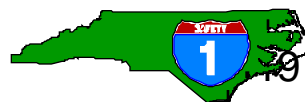
- **Rumble Strips to Reduce Lane Departure Crashes**
  - Increasing the utilization of rumble strips as an effective countermeasure to reducing run-off-road type collisions
  - DOT has revised policy
  - DOT has programmed over \$8 million in projects





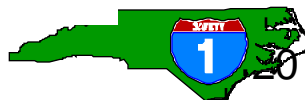
# Approved Strategies

- **Target Enforcement to Deter Behaviors Contributing to Lane Departure Crashes**
  - GHSP pilot program evaluating effectiveness of signing, media and additional enforcement on reducing speeding
  - Being conducted in Robeson, Cumberland, Harnett and Johnston Counties
  - Program is being evaluated by TESSB Safety Evaluation Group



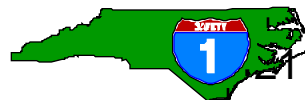
# Approved Strategies

- **Temporary Impoundment of Offenders' Vehicles to Deter Repeated Violations of DWLR**
  - Immediate 48 hour impoundment of vehicle if caught driving without a valid license
  - Deemed as a temporary inconvenience with associated fines and towing/storage costs
  - Awaiting legislation



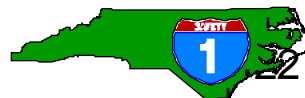
# Approved Strategies

- **Conduct Education and Awareness Campaigns to Increase Younger Drivers' Awareness of the Risks of Distracted Driving**
  - Educating young drivers and teens (ages 13-18) who are approaching the driving age of the risks involved with distracted driving
  - Awaiting approval of GHSP concept grant for funding
  - In 2006, the NC Legislature passed a ban on cell phone use for drivers under age 18 (Freebee)



# Approved Strategies

- **Compliance Dismissals – Provide for Recovery of Court Costs Associated with Dismissing Minor Traffic Violations**
  - House Bill 2771
  - Assessment of \$50 penalty for cases that are dismissed due to violator being in compliance
  - Expired license, expired inspection, no registration card, etc.
- **Why is this Important?**
  - In many Court Districts, these violations accounted for a large proportion of their cases
  - These violations consumed court resources at no cost to the violator
  - There is usually no question of guilt, motorists saw this as an inconvenience
  - We see it as a friendly reminder



# Approved Strategies

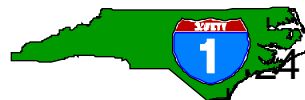
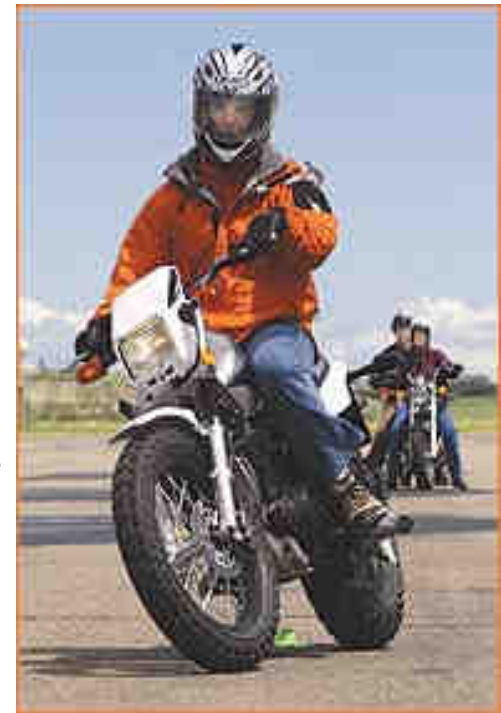
- **Clarifying the Current NC Mandatory Motorcycle Helmet Use Law to Increase Compliance of Legal Helmets**
  - Clarify current language in North Carolina General Statutes to clarify what constitutes a legal helmet
  - Eliminate the utilization of “novelty helmets”
  - Make the legislation more enforceable by law enforcement officers
  - Helmets will have to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) Number 218
  - Awaiting Legislation
- **In 2005, the ECHS Clearly Opposed the Proposed Repeal of Mandatory Helmets**
  - Passed a strong resolution supporting helmets
  - 2006 was the 1st Legislative Session in memory that a bill was not introduced to repeal the helmet law





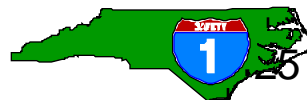
# Approved Strategies

- **Tighten the Requirements for a Motorcycle Operators Permit to Ensure Riders Are Demonstrating Rider Skills on Shorter Time Frame**
  - Strategy proposes that the permit system be revised to allow a one year non-renewable permit by taking the DMV written test if they have held a valid NC drivers license for two years or more
  - Individuals with less than two years valid drivers license will be required to successfully complete the NC Motorcycle Safety Education Program
  - Individuals less than 18 years of age would be required to take and successfully complete the NC Motorcycle Safety Education Program course
  - Awaiting Legislation

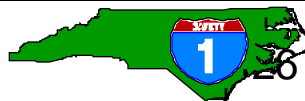


# Approved Strategies

- **Increasing Safety Belt Usage**
  - Senate Bill 774 requires all seating positions to be buckled
  - \$25 fine plus \$50 court cost for front seat occupants
  - \$10 fine and no court cost for rear seat occupants
  - Becomes law December 1, 2006
- **R U Buckled?**
  - Working with more than 50 high schools
  - Penalty for not buckling up is loss of parking privilege at school

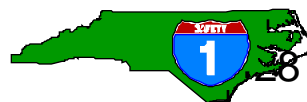


# Crash Test



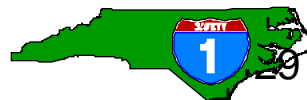
# Strategies In Progress

- **Safe Speed Act** - Working with the Court System on processing speeding violations.
- **Older Driver Strategies** - Considering an HSIP Warrant, Improved guidance around interchanges, improved dissemination of transportation alternatives.
- **Statewide Photo Enforcement** - developing a strategy to allow all government subdivisions (Municipal, County and State) to implement photo enforcement. Currently, each city has to request permission from the General Assembly.
- **Drivers Education Curriculum** - a workgroup will be reviewing the statewide curriculum for driver's education as well as the driver's handbook.



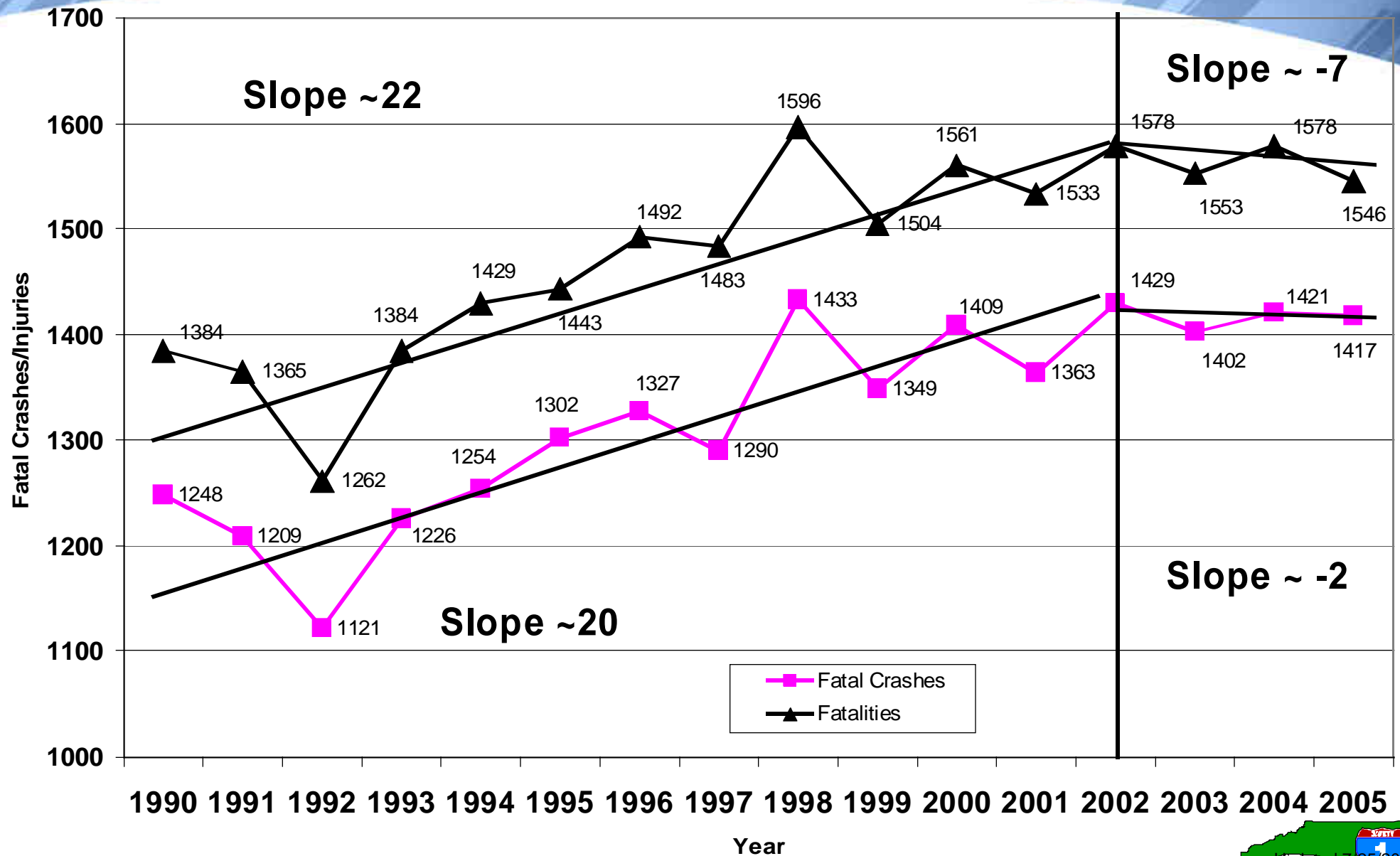
# Strategies In Progress

- Provide Roadway Design & Geometric Enhancements
- Target Enforcement to Deter Behaviors Contributing to Lane Departure Crashes
- Implementation of “The Safety Edge”
- More Accurate Identification of Revoked Drivers
- Tougher Punishment for Repeat Offenders: Habitual Revoked Driving
- Impoundment of Vehicle License Plates
- Monitoring Charlotte’s Photo Enforcement Speed Program
- Conduct Education and Awareness Campaigns to Increase Drivers’ Awareness of the Risks of Drowsy Driving





# By the Numbers

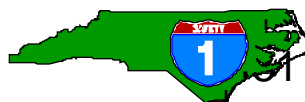


# An Ambitious Goal

In North Carolina, to achieve the 1.0 fatalities per 100 mvmt, we will have to reduce the number of people fatally injured on our highways to 1,052.

In 1945, there were 1,071 people killed in motor vehicle crashes. In that same year, the fatal rate was 12.77 fatalities per 100 mvmt. In 1945, the estimated vehicle miles traveled statewide for the year was 5.7 billion miles traveled.

In 2005, we travel 5.7 billion miles in roughly 3 weeks.



# **The North Carolina Executive Committee for Highway Safety**

**Cliff Braam, P.E.**

**Highway Safety Engineer**

**North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**email: [abraam@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:abraam@dot.state.nc.us)**

**Phone: (919) 733-3915**

**<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/traffic/ECHS/>**

